

Serial No.: 09/654,951
Attorney Docket No.: F-100

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-28 were pending in the Application. Applicant has added new claims 29-32. Applicant respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-32 will remain pending in the application.

2. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-20 and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,367,464 to Abumehdi, et al. ("Abumehdi '464") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,668 to Sharrow ("Sharrow '668").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Initially, the Sharrow '668 reference is not properly combined with the Abumehdi '464 reference. The Sharrow '668 reference does not appreciate a problem of a plurality of modules maintaining transaction audit data that is also reflected in a separate database such that the audit data from the two locations can be compared. There is absolutely no suggestion or motivation to combine the references.

Even if the references were properly combined, the references do not teach or fairly suggest the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-6, 8-20 and 22-28.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for auditing a database having a plurality of records wherein each record is accessible through at least one of a plurality of independent modules and is shown below:

1. A method for auditing a database comprising a plurality of records, said records each being accessible through at least one of a plurality of independent modules, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) maintaining a set of additive audit data in each of said modules;
 - b) controlling said modules so that each module increments a set of audit data maintained in said module when a record is accessed through said module;

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- c) summing said sets of audit data to generate system audit data; and
- d) verifying said database's integrity against said system audit data. (emphasis added).

The references do not teach or fairly suggest summing said sets of audit data. Additionally, the references do not teach or fairly suggest a system in which each module maintains a set of audit data and in which each module increments a set of audit data. Furthermore, the Sharrow '668 reference does not teach or fairly suggest summing said sets of audit data to generate system audit data; and verifying said database's integrity against said system audit data.

Independent claim 15 includes similar elements and is patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. The referenced dependent claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above regarding the respective independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as presently claimed is patentable over the cited references and request that the examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 1-6, 8-20 and 22-28.

Regarding claims 2, 9, 16 and 24, Abumehdi '464 does not teach or fairly suggest "sending a user request for access to a record and said requested record to a selected one of said modules" since the one meter of Abumehdi '464 must be used for the transaction and there need be no selection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as presently claimed is patentable over the cited references for at least this additional reason and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 4, 10 and 20, Abumehdi '464 does not teach or fairly suggest a "selected module" since the one meter of Abumehdi '464 must be used for the transaction and there need be no selection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as presently claimed is patentable over the cited references for at least this additional reason and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 8 and 22, Abumehdi '464 does not teach or fairly suggest a "linear error correcting code" since the one meter of Abumehdi '464 merely checks

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multiple registers. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as presently claimed is patentable over the cited references for at least this additional reason and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 13 and 27, Abumehdi '464 does not teach or fairly suggest a "linear error correcting code" since the one meter of Abumehdi '464 merely checks multiple registers. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as presently claimed is patentable over the cited references for at least this additional reason and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being rendered obvious by Abumehdi '464 in view of Sharrow '668 and in further view U.S. Patent No. 5,778,076 to Kara, et al. ("Kara '076").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Initially, as described above, the Sharrow '668 reference is not properly combined with the Abumehdi '464 reference. Even if the references were properly combined, the references do not teach or fairly suggest the invention as presently claimed in claims 7 and 21 for at least the reasons described above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-28 is in condition for allowance.

3. New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 29-32 and submit that the claims are patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance

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4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

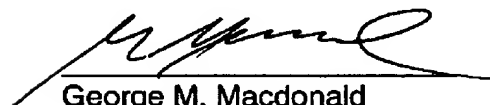
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

5. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-100.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-100.

Respectfully submitted,



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